The Characteristic Thing in the Attitude of Americans Toward Money.

By Henry Van Dyke.

THE characteristic thing in the attitude of the Americans toward money is this: not that they adore the dollar, but that they admire the energy of the man who has made it. They consider the multi-millionaire much less as the possessor of an enormous fortune, than as the successful leader of great enterprises in the world of affairs, a master of the steel industry, the head of a great railway system, the developer of the production of mineral oil, the organizer of large concerns which promote general prosperity. He represents to them achievement, force, courage, tireless will-power. A man who is very rich merely by inheritance, who has no manifest share in the activities of the country, has quite a different place in their attention. They are entertained, or perhaps shocked, by his expenditures, but they regard him lightly. It is the man who does things, and does them largely, in whom they take a serious interest. They are inclined, perhaps, to pardon him for things that ought not to be pardoned, because they feel so strongly the fascination of his potent will, his practical efficiency. It is not the might of the dollar that impresses them, it is the might of the man who wins the dollar magnificently by the development of American industry.

This, I assure you, is the characteristic attitude of the typical American toward wealth. It does not confer a social status by itself in the United States any more than it does in England or in France. But it commands public attention by its relation to national will-power.—American Magazine.

The Farmers' Side.

By John. M Kennedy

THE problem of the high cost of living has been the cause of a great deal of agitation and discussion for the last two months, and movements have sprung up urging that an exhaustive investigation be made in an effort to ascertain the causes.

It requires but very little investigation to find the principal causes. One is because there are too many consumers for the number of producers, and that the law of supply and demand holds good; and another very important one is the great scarcity of farm laborers all over the country. The farms in the State of New York could easily produce double the present yield if enough competent help could be secured to do the necessary work for any reasonable price.

Farm life and labor will not be held in favor until the farmer receives enough for his produce to make a fair return on his investment in farm and equipment and as good compensation for his labor as is received in the various other industries. In that case country life would be more attractive to the farmers' sons and daughters who now flock to the cities.

The people can buy flour, sugar, tea, coffee, rice, beans, onions, potatoes and many other articles of food at the present time at no higher price than the average for the last fifteen years, while the wage for labor of all kinds has been increased from 50 to 100 per cent in the same time, which much more than offsets the increased cost of meat, butter, cheese, eggs, etc.

None of the speakers or publications has had one word to say about the great increase in the cost of labor in the past fifteen years in all the industries and activities of the people, which adds very materially to the cost of all the products of labor. So long as men can live and work in cities eight or nine hours a day and receive much more wages than any farmer can afford to pay at the present prices for his produce, farm laborers will be scarce and food may continue to advance in price.

The farmer cannot do his work on any eight-hour basis; he must work from twelve to fourteen hours a day for eight months of the year, and ten hours for the remainder, and then may see his crops ruined by unfavorable weather. Farming is the most risky business on the list of industries.

The Squirrel and the Plague.

By William Colby Rucker.

ONE hot day in the summer of 1903, a German blacksmith in the country town of Pacheco, California, wanted a mess of ground-squirrels for his dinner. He banked his forge, hung up his leather apron, took the old shotgun from its pegs on the wall and had an excellent afternoon's sport in a near-by field. That evening he feasted on fat, tender broiled squirrels. Three days later he was taken violently ill—so ill, in fact, that the physician who was called sent him to the German Hospital in San Francisco. The doctor, a man of keen intelligence and acute observation, realized that he was dealing with a disease which he had never met before and the exact identity of which he was unable to determine.

At this time bubonic plague existed in Chinatown, San Francisco, and the task of eradicating it had been assigned to a young officer of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service who was afterward to take foremost rank among the world's authorities on that disease. His ability was already recognized by the medical profession, and he was called to diagnose the strange disease which had attacked the country blacksmith. He saw at once that the patient was suffering from bubonic plague—the Black Death—and was able to prove this bacteriologically after the death of the man.

Passed Assistant-Surgeon George W. McCoy, of the Federal laboratory in San Francisco, whose bacteriological work on the ground-squirrel marks an advance in plague investigation, finds that many of the ground-squirrels sent in for examination have the disease is light form or are recovering from a severe attack. Usually when the germs from such a case are injected into rats or guinea-pigs they die quite as rapidly as if they had been given a dose of the most virulent plague bacteria known. In other words, although the disease does not seem to kill off all of the squirrels after it has travelled through several generations, it regains its virulence when injected into another species. The squirrel, then, is the animal in which the disease is kept alive, a sort of natural living incubator, as it were, and when plague leaves the squirrels for another species, wide-spread death and suffering follow in its train. Dr. Blue's officers and men have scoured the city of San Francisco and ridden it of plague. The present movement looks to the eradication of this outside focus, the extermination of the disease from California.—Harper's Weekly.